(c) if so, the steps Government have taken no deal with the situation; and

(d) the results achieved so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) Yes, Sir. While there are reports of links between Indian left wing extremist groups and Maoists of Nepal, there is no information, at present, to suggest involvement of 'imported fighters' from Bangladesh at the behest of Pak ISI in the naxalite movement in India.

(b) There are reports that the Pak ISI is exerting pressure on the leaders of the Punjab militant outfits sheltered by Pakistan to indulge in terrorist activities in Punjab for reviving militancy in the State.

(c) and (d) The Government have adopted a coordinated and multi-pronged approach to counter any attempt to revive militancy in Punjab. The measures taken for tackling the activities of militants include strengthening of border management to check illegal cross-border activities, gearing up of intelligence machinery, close interaction between different agencies of the Centre and the State Government, neutralizing plans of militants and anti-national elements by coordinated action, modernization and upgradation of police and security forces with advanced and sophisticated weapons and communication system etc. These measures have resulted in neutralization of several modules of Punjab militants in Punjab, Delhi and Jammu and Kashmir, apprehension of several militants and recovery of large quantity of arms, ammunition and explosives from them.

Fake residency certificates

*612. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO:
SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether racket of issue of fake residency certificates to army recruits have come to light:

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) the action taken to probe the matter and ensure that antinational elements do not infiltrate into the armed forces?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) In the Branch Recruiting Office, Siliguri, while carrying out a verification of documents, in the recent past it was found that approximately 25 candidates had submitted fake residential certificates and transfer certificates for recruitment in the Army. The matter was immediately reported along with all relevant documents to the civil authorities for necessary action against the culprits.

To ensure that anti-national elements do not infiltrate/enter into the Armed Forces all relevant documents including Ration Cards, Voter. Identity Cards, Educational Documents and Character Certificates etc. are thoroughly verified in consultation with the civil/ concerned authorities. Such verification is conducted both at pre and post enrolment stages.

Destruction of armoured tanks in fire at Sonukhshetra, Rajasthan

†*613 Dr. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the armoured tanks kept in a military complex at Sonukhshetra of Jaisalmer district of Rajasthan have been destroyed due to fire incident there;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the said fire incident was an act of terrorists; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take to save ammunition/ armament Depots from such fires?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (d) A fire incident in a tank of 18 Cavalry of 4 Independent Armoured Brigade occurred on 26th January, 2002. The Unit was

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.